

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Serial No. 10/718,236

Filing Date: November 19, 2003

Title: MINIMALLY INVASIVE VALVE REPAIR PROCEDURE AND APPARATUS

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Dkt.: P-21779.02

Remarks

The Office Action identified the following sets of inventions:

Group I: Corresponding to claims 1-8 and 20-22, drawn to a method;

Group II: Corresponding to claims 9-19, drawn to an apparatus.

Applicants herein elect Group I, with traverse.

Claims 1-22 that were originally filed in this application are identical to original claims 1-22 found in U.S. serial no. 09/686,004, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,926,730 (the "'004 Application"). An election of species requirement was mailed in the '004 Application on 12/17/01. That election resulted in the search of original claims 1-16, and claims 17-22 were withdrawn from consideration.

The present restriction requirement is traversed. The restriction requirement fails to give full faith and credit to the election of species requirement from the '004 Application. In reliance on the original election of species requirement, original claims 17-22 were withdrawn from consideration. They should not now be further divided in yet another restriction requirement.

A petition for a two-month extension of time accompanies this response. A supplemental information disclosure statement also accompanies this response

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Date: May 8, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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